



Town of Pittsfield Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2021-2026

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Introduction and Purpose

Open space and outdoor recreation facilities are a positive attribute to the community and are an important public investment to provide leisure opportunities within the community. Open space and park facilities are necessary to maintain the community's attractive atmosphere and enhance growth and overall health. These facilities are also necessary for citizens to take pride in living, working and raising a family within a community.

Planning is vital for identifying and meeting the needs of a community. The Town of Pittsfield has developed this document as a guide for providing open space and outdoor recreation opportunities for its residents.

Acceptance of this plan by the Town board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will maintain the Town's eligibility to participate in state and federal recreation aid programs.

Goals and Objectives

Goals represent desired outcomes toward which planning efforts should be directed. They represent an end to be sought and may never be fully attained.

Objectives describe specific actions or tasks which if taken work to accomplish the goals. They are the targets on the path to satisfying the goals. The objectives of this plan are outlined in the Recommendations sections.

The following Goals are meant to guide Town Officials as they work to improve Town Park and recreation facilities.

Goal # 1

To establish a Town park system providing a range of park types in compliance with applicable park standards.

Goal # 2

Develop existing and possible future sites with both active recreation (soccer fields, playgrounds...) and nature based (picnicking, hiking...) activities for the community.

Goal # 3

Promote, preserve and protect unique open space property or environmental resources for recreation and preservation.

Goal # 4

Maintain a current and meaningful plan that meets the needs of the Town residents

Planning Process

Summary / History of Past Parklands and the Town's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (CORP)

In 1997 the Town of Pittsfield completed its first Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. The plan was largely based around the acquisition and development of a 78.5 acre parcel on School Road in the Southwest corner of the Township.

The plan called for the purchase of the property through both donated funds and a Department of Natural resources Stewardship Grant. The Town was able to acquire the property through the mentioned resources. The past Town administration looked to develop the land into a large Soccer complex.

Changes in the Town and its growth made the appropriate course for this development of this property questionable.

Seeing these shortcomings, in 2009 the CORP was updated and after gaining authorization from the DNR the School Road land was eventually sold and the funds were used to acquire land on Kunesh Road and Brookside Road.

At the Kunesh Road Site the Town has constructed a Community Park with parking area, athletic fields, an open-air pavilion, a walking trail that connects to the Mountain Bay Trail with a bridge over the tributary stream and a playground next to a New Town Community Center. The Brookside land was planted in native grasses and has been left undeveloped.

In 2017 the CORP was worked on but never passed procedurally.

The Town, through the updating of this document in 2021, is taking the appropriate steps to plan for the future of recreation in the municipality.

Description of the Process

The Town Park Committee, through the Park Committee has undertaken the process of the drafting of this amended document. The concepts found in this plan were covered during the public input portions of the Town's Comprehensive planning process. Members of the Park Committee, Planning committee and Town Board were part of that process. The draft of this document, its concepts and proposals were reviewed at the 2021 April Annual Town meeting. The Plan review was posted and public comment was sought and addressed at this public meeting of the electors of the Town. Changes were made based on suggestions at this meeting. The Town Board then adopted the plan by resolution.

Amending the Plan

The planning process, no matter how well thought out, is still subject to miscalculations and unforeseen circumstances. Amending a plan due to unforeseen developments and opportunities is common and should be

considered part of the ongoing planning process. For the life of this CORP the process of amendment will be as follows:

- Park Committee reviews and assists in development of the amended document
- The amended document will be discussed at a public meeting and changes may be made to reflect the concerns and comments made at the meeting.
- The Planning Committee, Staff or other individual shall identify and account for critical opportunities not accounted for in the CORP
- The Planning Committee recommends adoption of the amended document by resolution by the Town Board
- The Town Board considers the amended document at an open board meeting and either adopts or rejects the amended document.

Description of Planning Region

Established November 17, 1849, the Town of Pittsfield is positioned in northwestern Brown County, Wisconsin. The town is primarily rural in nature with agricultural uses dominating the landscape in the western portion of the town. The densest residential development within the town occurs in the eastern half of the town. The Town of Pittsfield is bordered on the north by Oconto County and the Village of Pulaski, on the east by the Village of Suamico, on the south by the Village of Howard and Outagamie County, and on the west by Shawano County.

The Town of Pittsfield with an estimated population of 2815 people by the end of 2020 and with a projected 3,090 people by 2030 will have an anticipated 8.8 percent increase in population.

In 2019 the Town updated its Comprehensive Plan and the best way to describe the area is to include excerpts from this inclusive document. The following sections are directly from that document.

Demographic Trends

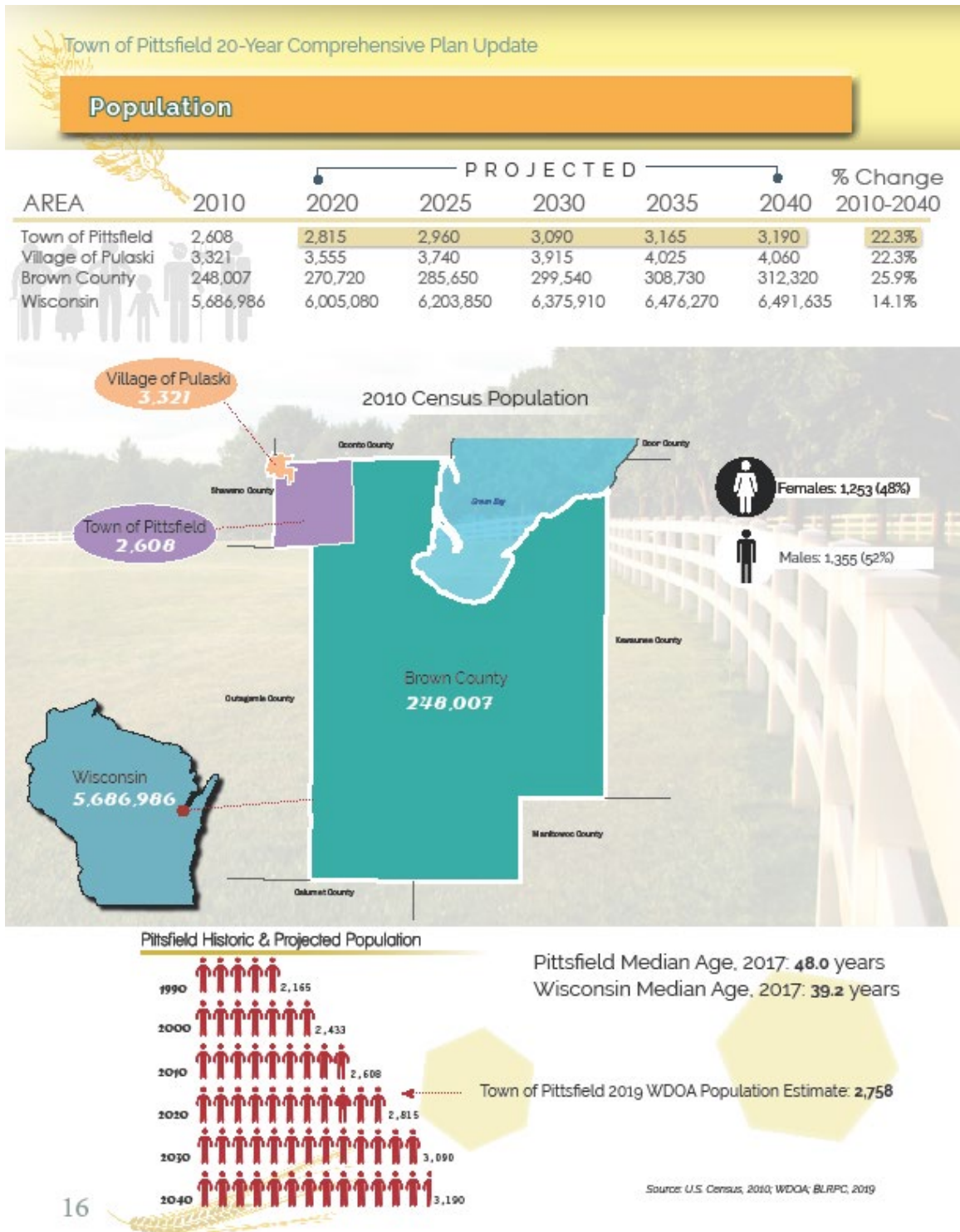


Figure 1 Demographic Trends

Source: Town of Pittsfield 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update

Housing Characteristics

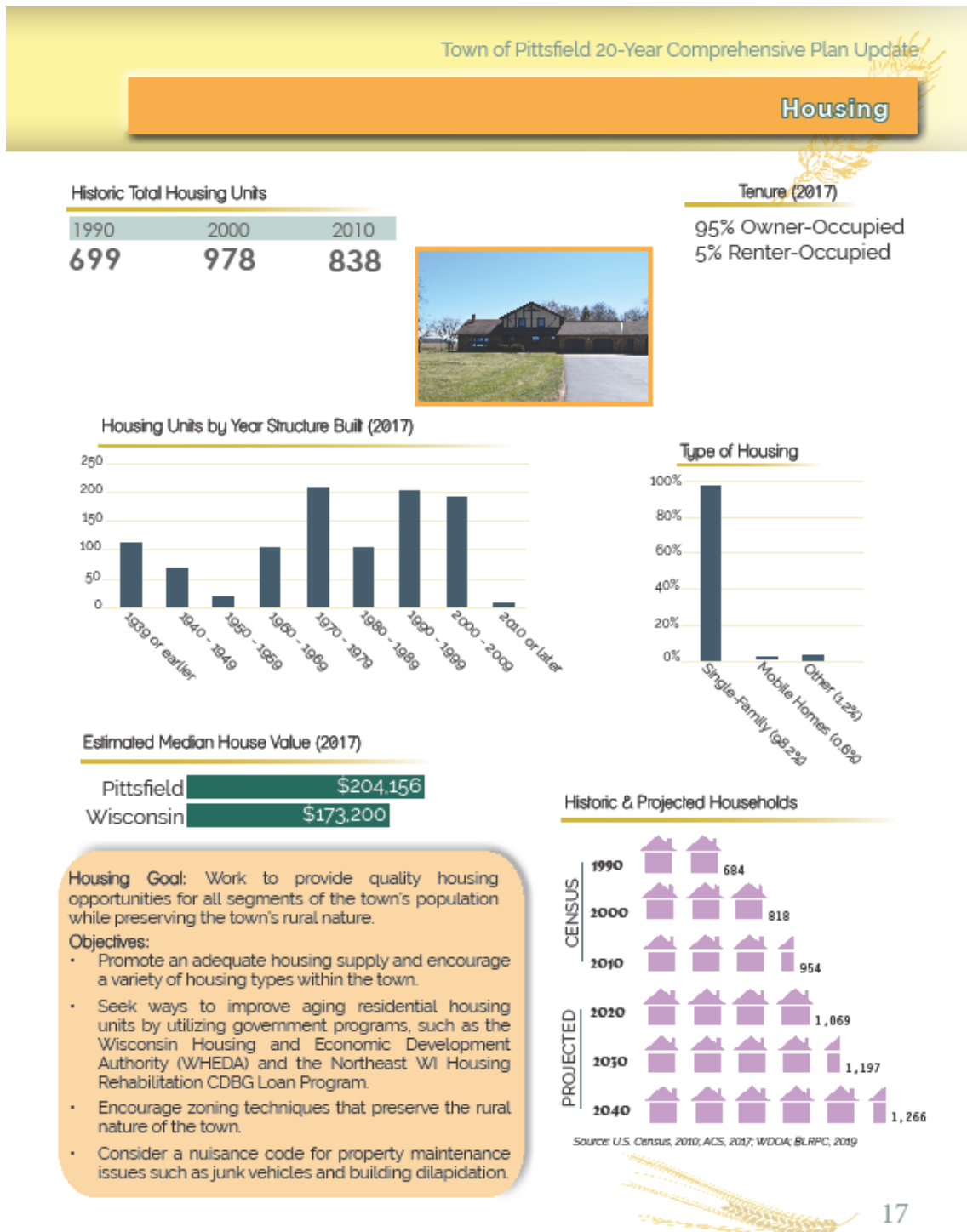


Figure 2 Housing Characteristics

Source: Town of Pittsfield 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update

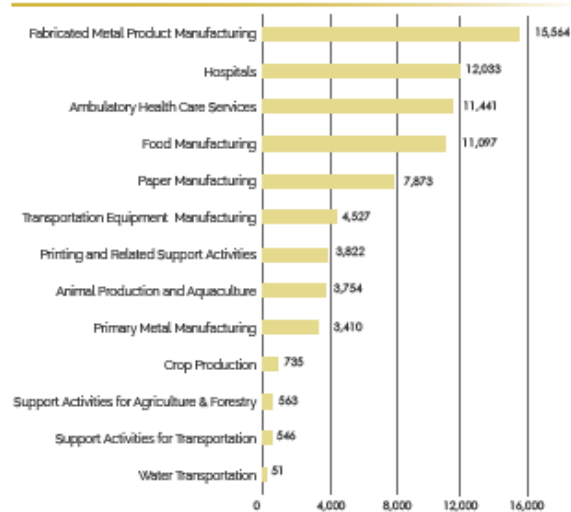
Economy

Town of Pittsfield 20-Year Comprehensive Plan Update

Economy

Economic Summary:

Employment in Cluster Industries Northeast Wisconsin

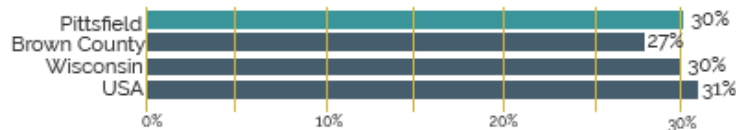


Prominent Employers (Brown County)

United Health Group
St. Mary's Hospital
Oneida Casino
Bay Valley Foods
Procter & Gamble Paper
WEC Energy Group
APAC Customer Service
Schreiber Foods
Green Bay Dressed Beef
St. Vincent Hospital
Georgia-Pacific Corp
JBS Packerland
RR Donnelly
Associated Bank
Humana
Belmark
Aurora Health Center
Bellin Memorial Hospital



Education: Bachelors Degree or Higher



Average Commuting Time to Work (Pittsfield)



Largest Industries (Employed Persons)

- Manufacturing: Employment: **289**
- Educational services, and health care and social assistance: Employment: **283**

Median Household Income

- Town of Pittsfield: **\$78,090**
- Brown County: \$56,775
- Wisconsin: \$56,759



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Figure 3 Economy

Source: Town of Pittsfield 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update

Physical Characteristics of the Region

The elevation in the Town varies from a low of 680 feet amsl in the valley of the Suamico River to 813 feet amsl on the flat uplands of the western boundary of the Town. The changes in elevation reflect the variances in surface geology of the Town. A strip, approximately one and a half miles wide along the eastern portion of the Town is composed of Mid-Woodfordian end moraine, overlain by Valderan ground moraine. This area is quite rugged and is characterized by many tributary streams and woodlots. The central portion of the Town, which is overlain by Valderan drift, was submerged by glacial lakes during the period of Mid-Woodfordian glaciation. This area is flatter and less wooded than the eastern portion of the Town, but it does contain the Suamico River valley and numerous tributary streams.

The stream valleys of the Suamico River and its various tributaries, as well as the forested areas in the eastern portion of the Town, offer great scenery. These areas are also home to a number of different species of wildlife that utilize the wetland and forested habitats of the area. Because of the contrast they provide from the surrounding landscape, all of the forested areas in the Town are also scenic resources. Protection of these areas of the Town adds to the attractiveness of the Town as a place to live.

Source: Town of Pittsfield 2006 Comprehensive Plan page 132

Needs Assessment

Needs Standards

Various methodologies exist to analyze park and recreational needs and demand. By comparing existing recreational facilities and their associated uses and sizes (in terms of acreage) with known standards set by various agencies and recreation oriented groups, shortfalls in recreational opportunities can be identified. The following is a description of accepted standards which are utilized for these purposes as well as population information for the Town of Pittsfield.

NRPA Standards

One method to assess community recreation needs is the standards system. Standards that have been developed by the National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) provide a scale against which existing recreation systems can be measured so that a guideline for can be created. Standards link the number of acres to the community's population service area standards are used to determine the recreation needs. Open space needs are usually assessed using space standards, the most commonly and widely used measure of a

recreation system's adequacy. Total park and recreation space is usually expressed as acres per population. These space standards are useful in assessing the current and future open space needs and demands.

Figure 4 NRPA Standards

Figure 1-12 NRPA Park Standards and Recommendations				
PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA	SIZE IN ACREAGE	ACRES/1000 POPULATION	PARK USE
Mini Park	<1/4 mile Radius	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	Specialized facility that serves a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens
Neighborhood Park	¼ to ½ mile Radius	15+	1.0 to 2.0	Area for intense recreation activities such as field games, court games, crafts, play equipment, skating, picnicking.
Community Park	Several Neighborhoods – 1 to 2 mile Radius or entire community	25 +	5.0 to 8.0	Area of diverse environmental and/or historic quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May also be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing sitting, picnicking.
Regional Park	Several communities – 1 hour driving time	1,000 +	Variable	Area of natural quality for nature oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping, and trail use. May include play areas. Generally, 80 percent of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management.
Special Use Park	No Applicable Standard	Variable	Variable	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas or areas that preserve and maintain historical buildings or archeological sites.
Source: Roger A Lancaster, Ed. 1983, <u>Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines</u> , Alexandria, Virginia; National Recreation and Park Association; and Bay-Lake RPC, 1997				

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program

The State of Wisconsin has developed a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP examines the current and future recreational resources and needs within the state. Within the SCORP the

state is divided into eight regions to help guide the allocation of limited funds and support the development of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Located in northern Brown County, Wisconsin the Town of Pittsfield falls within the “Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region” of the SCORP analysis. The town is greatly influenced by the recreational demands of the Green Bay Metropolitan area where many of the residents are employed. Town residents also maintain a connection to opportunities through the Bay of Green Bay (fishing and boating), the Brown County Reforestation Camp (hiking and NEW Zoo) and the Pulaski School District (competitive and active sport programs).

According to the SCORP analysis, the highest recreational demands in the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region include the following:

1. Family Gatherings
2. Walking for pleasure
3. Driving for pleasure
4. Picnicking
5. Snow/ice activities
6. Boating
7. Bicycling
8. Freshwater fishing
9. Visit a beach
10. Swimming in lakes and streams

Also according to the SCORP analysis, recreation supply shortages for the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region include the following:

Nature Based;

1. Campsites (non-electric)
2. Parks
3. Trails – cross country skiing
4. Trails – hiking
5. Trails – horseback riding
6. Trails – mountain biking

Developed areas (more urban):

1. Basketball courts
2. Dog parks
3. Playgrounds facilities
4. Horseback riding
5. Shooting ranges
6. Soccer fields
7. Tennis courts
8. Volleyball courts
9. Water parks

The Town of Pittsfield Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will utilize the above recognized regional recreational demands and supply shortages to help

build a list of recommendations. For example, the town recognizes the local recreational needs in the areas of facilities for walking for pleasure, family gatherings, and picnicking. The town can work to meet supply shortages to meet these needs by development of hiking trails, parks, playground facilities and athletic fields.

Park Accessibility Standards

The Town desires to provide equal recreational opportunities for all our citizens and in that spirit shall adopt accessibility standards compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The ADA requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who are disabled. That is, all public and private goods and service providers and employers must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or that they provide alternative access where feasible. Precise guidelines have been developed for all public structures such as restrooms, information centers, and other public and private buildings. The Town shall comply with these guidelines in planning, modification of existing facilities and construction of new resources.

Recreation Inventory

Parks and Recreation

The presence of outdoor recreation and open space adds to a community's quality of life. It enhances the attractiveness of and fosters a sense of civic pride in the community. The provision of an adequate supply of areas, facilities, and activities to accommodate the public's open space and recreational needs has long been demonstrated to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the community and its citizens.

Town Owned Resources

The Town of Pittsfield owns open space in three different locations within the Town. It owns 33 acres in the central portion of the Town adjacent to Brookside Road. The Pittsfield Trap Association operates a trap range on a portion of the property via a lease agreement with the Town. The old Town landfill occupies a portion of the property. Behind the landfill the Town owns roughly 15.6 acres along the Suamico river that has been set aside as a conservancy.

The Town also owns approximately 11.36 acres of land adjacent to the Mountain-Bay State Recreational Trail on Kunesh Road near the center of the Township. This is the land mentioned in the planning process summary. This location, adjacent to a major thoroughfare (County Road C and U), and geographically centered in the Township, as well as the fact that it is adjacent to

the Recreation Trail made it an ideal location for development. The Town has developed this park site with a walking trail that is connected to the Mountain Bay trail, and benches along the trail. Grants have been used to reforest a portion of the conservancy area. Athletic fields were planted in 2020 and will be ready for use in 2021 or 2022. An open-air shelter with a park style grill was constructed at this location with the help of donations and volunteers from the community.

The Town's new community center is also located at this site and part of the center is a roll up door that will allow the kitchen area to be used for event sales. The community center also has outdoor restrooms along the side of the building next to the athletic fields, for use by the community. In 2020 playground equipment was added to the site between the community center and athletic fields. This equipment has been used heavily by the community.

Lastly the Town owns a small parcel that allows access to the Suamico River from within the River Forest drive subdivision. This area is undeveloped and unmarked.



Figure 5 Park Sign



Figure 6 Gazebo



Figure 7 Walking Trail



Figure 8 Native Grasses and Reforested Area



Figure 9 Playground Equipment



Figure 10 Playground Equipment

Other Resources

Lannoye Elementary School, located in the southern portion of the Town adjacent to CTH U contains playground equipment, a ball diamond, tennis courts and a soccer area. The nearest Brown County Park is the Brown County Reforestation Camp, which is located in the Village of Suamico approximately two miles from the eastern border of the Town of Pittsfield. Many Town residents utilize the recreational facilities contained at the Brown County Reforestation Camp. The Northeast Wisconsin Beagle Club operates a facility off of Rolling Hill Drive.

The Mountain-Bay State Recreational Trail is located within the Town. It runs diagonally through the Town, entering at the southeast corner and exiting at the northwest corner into the Village of Pulaski. It is an 84 mile long trail located on the abandoned Chicago and Northwestern Railroad corridor and extends from the Village of Howard to the Village of Westfield in Marathon County. The portion of the trail in Brown County is maintained by Brown County. Walking, hiking, and biking are allowed on the entire extent of the trail. Snowmobiling is allowed on the trail north of the intersection of the trail and Brookside Drive.

The Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update recommends a bicycle corridor (comprised of a signed, striped, and marked bicycle lane) along CTH B from STH 32 in the Town to CTH HS and CTH J in the Village of Suamico and along CTH U from the Mountain-Bay State Recreational Trail south to CTH J in the Village of Hobart. This would require paving the shoulder of these two highways during resurfacing or reconstruction to create the bicycle lane. The Town did work with the Village of Howard during the rebuilding Glendale Avenue and added a bike lane to a portion of this roadway.

Facility Inventory

Town of Pittsfield Park Facility Inventory				
NAME	OWNER	ACRES	STATUS	PARK TYPE
Mountain-Bay State Recreation Trail	State of WI / Brown County	80	Conservancy Walking Trail	Special Use
Lannoye Elementary School	Pulaski School District	5.5	School Playground	Mini
Brookside Road Site	Town of Pittsfield	2.5	Portion rented to Trap Club	Special Use
		15.6	Undeveloped / Conservancy	NA
Kunesh Road Site	Town of Pittsfield	10.8	Walking trails, nature area, open area shelter, athletic fields, playground equipment	Regional
River Forest Hills Drive Site	Town of Pittsfield	0.40 acre	Undeveloped	NA
Total Park Acres		114.8	Developed = 98.8 acres Undeveloped = 16 acres Developed recreational area without State Trail and rented area = $98.8 - 82.5 = 16.3$ acres	

Figure 11 Park Facility Inventory

According to the Facility Inventory (Figure 8) the Town has 114.8 acres of designated Park Land. 82.5 of these acres are of the category Special Use. When looking for park needs, Special Use parks are limited and not open to as much use as the other categories. In this analysis it is reasonable to remove these parks for the calculations for need. When this is done the total park land drops to 32.3 acres. The Town currently has 16 acres of park land that is undeveloped. This brings the Town's inventory of developed park land to 16.3 acres

A community's park system under NRPA standards should have a minimum of 6.25 to 10.5 total acres of developed open space per 1,000 populations. The Town of Pittsfield with a estimated population at the end of 2020 of 2,815 should provide between 17.5 and 29.4 acres of parklands. As the Town grows it's need will also grow.

At 16.3 acres of developed park the Town is below its projected need of a minimum of 17.5 acres. as outlined in Figure 9,

NRPA Acreage by Population		Acreage Recommendations	
Year	Population	Low	High
Target	1000	6.25	10.5
		(population x 0.001) x 6.25	(population x 0.001) x 10.5
2020	2815	17.5	29.4
2030	3915	24.4	41.1
2040	4060	25.3	42.6

Figure 12 NRPA Recommendation Park Acreage by Population

The following recommendations should help bring the Town closer to meeting the needs standards outlined above and identified in the facility inventory.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the current needs inventory and NPRA standards, and is meant to serve as a guide for future park acquisition and development.

Overall Recommendations

- A. Kunesh Road site should continue to be developed into a Neighborhood park with a combination of conservancy land for a picnic area and a connecting path to the Mountain-Bay Trail along with active recreation areas / athletic fields. The combination of Stewardship and conventional park land will allow the Town to accomplish this at this site.
- B. The Brookside Road site should eventually be developed as a Community Style Park with restoration of native prairie grasses in the current farm fields and hiking trails through the natural valley area. The natural beauty and restored habitat will provide a conservancy area for generations to come. Development of this site should help bring the Town up to NRPA recommendations.
- C. As development occurs parks, conservancy areas and walking trails should be encouraged within the developments.
- D. Encourage the development of a connecting path between the Kunesh Road and Brookside Road park sites during the future development of the lands between the two sites. Contingent upon easement (Addendum B)
- E. Continue to update this plan at least every five years to maintain eligibility for grants administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The above actions should help bring the Town closer to meeting the needs standards as was outlined during the inventory.

Specific Recommendations

Future development is recommended in the following Phases:

- a. Phase I Kunesh Road Site
 - i. Finish athletic fields
 - Bleachers
 - Signage

- ii. Continue reforestation of the Stewardship areas west of the creek
 - iii. Addition of handicap accessible hard surface to the current playground area
 - iv. Add additional crossing over the creek near the north border of the park
 - v. Add additional walking trails around the athletic fields
 - vi. Addition of fitness stations around the walking trails.
- b. Phase II Brookside Road Site
 - i. Maintain the plantings of native prairie grasses
 - ii. Construct parking area
 - iii. Construct hiking trails
- c. Phase III Secondary actions
 - i. Construct bridge/s over the Suamico River and additional trails at the Brookside Road site
 - ii. Construct open air pavilion or gazebo at the Brookside Road site
 - iii. Construct informational trail signage at Brookside site

Implementation

Funding for recreational development can come from a number of sources both public and private. Most funding for this type of development comes from public local funds. Primarily, local funds come from a number of sources including allocations from the local tax base, and sale of bonds. The receipt of grants as well as donations from individuals and organizations will also be a funding source.

Operation and Maintenance

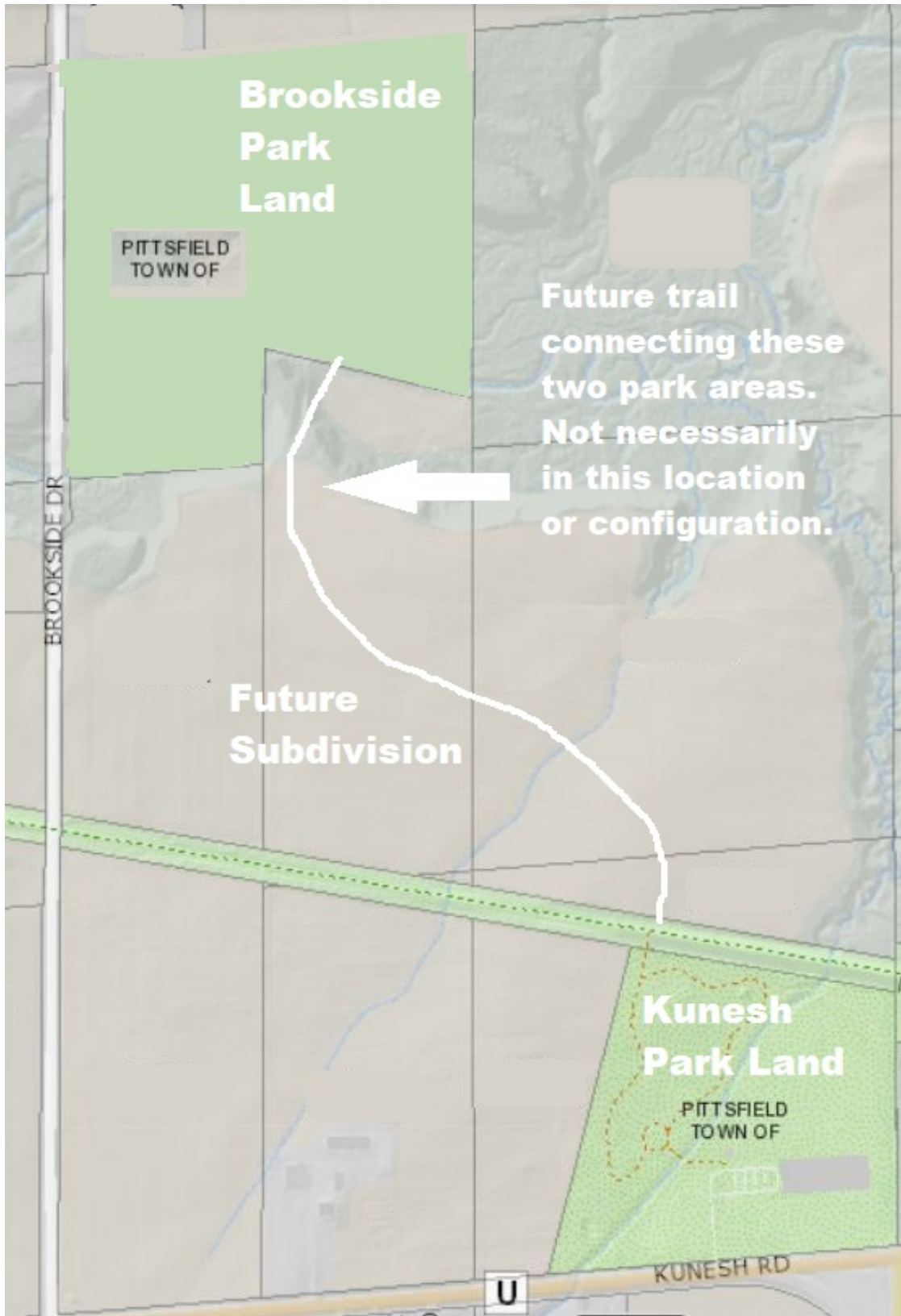
Continued maintenance of developed Town Park facilities will become the responsibility of the Town tax base and may have to be reflected in the Town budget. Some of the maintenance costs may be offset for the active recreation areas by entering into a use agreement with local organizations, such as an athletic association for the use of the proposed Kunesh Road athletic fields. The Town must be careful not to allow itself to get into an agreement that subjugates its responsibilities.

Addendums

Addendum A



Addendum B



Copy of Town Resolution Adopting the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

RESOLUTION 2021 - ____

SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Town of Pittsfield is to be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for participation in state and federal recreation programs; and,

WHEREAS, an update of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan has been prepared by the Town of Pittsfield Planning Committee after seeking public input and taking into consideration the Town's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Plan; and,

WHEREAS, this recreation plan is based on sound planning principles and long-range goals and objectives for the Town's recreational development;

WHEREAS, this five year plan will be amended in the future to such that it meets requirements to be incorporated into the Town's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Pittsfield Board of Supervisors, met in regular session, that the updated Town of Pittsfield Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan be adopted as a guide for future recreation improvements.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Town of Pittsfield Board of Supervisors requests the Department of Natural Resources to provide continued eligibility for participation in cost-sharing programs for the next five years.

Adopted by the Town Board of Pittsfield this ____ day of ____, 2021

Keith D. Deneys, Chairman _____

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board of Pittsfield at a legal meeting on the ____ day of ____, 2021

Debbie Diederich, Clerk _____